

To : Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

From : Dan Storck, Supervisor  
Mount Vernon District

Subject: BOARD MATTERS for April 10, 2018

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For your consideration, I submit the following Board Matters accompanied by a brief explanation. Your support will be appreciated.

**1. Natural Landscaping Techniques on County & School Properties**

## **1. Natural Landscaping Techniques on County & School Properties**

### ***Background***

In 2005, at the direction of Former Chairman Gerry Connolly (Board Matter 4a. June 21, 2004), a Natural Landscaping Committee submitted to the Board a report for implementing natural landscaping techniques on county and public school properties. The interagency committee had representatives from the Park Authority, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Urban Forestry Division and Facilities Management Department.

Creating more natural habitats of native plants and converting degraded and grassy areas to more natural habitats is one way county agencies can begin to address some of the environmental challenges the county faces and some of the goals of the recently updated Environmental Vision. These approaches provide multiple advantages:

- Reduce mowing and maintenance costs;
- Reduce polluting emissions from lawn maintenance and other vehicles;
- Provide support for native wildlife;
- Increase the county's biodiversity;
- Be outdoor classrooms for all ages, boosting scientific knowledge;
- Absorb pollutants and stem stormwater runoff; and
- Provide other free, ecological services.

### ***Proposed Action***

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Park Authority, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Urban Forestry Division and Facilities Management Department to come to a future Environmental Committee meeting to provide a progress report on the implementation outlined in Chairman Connolly's June 21, 2004 Board matter.